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March 1, 1994

VIA FACSIMILE AND MAIL
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Dr. Harry J. Pettengill
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health
EH-40
United States Department of Energy GTN
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, Maryland 20545

Re: Enewetak

Dear Dr. Pettengill:

Senator Ismael John, Mayor Neptali Peter, and the Enewetak leadership have asked me to write this letter to confirm our understanding with respect to issues discussed during the DOE meeting in Honolulu the week of December 13, 1993.

In addition to the general presentation of DOE officials, Brookhaven, and Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, we discussed the following issues which concerned the Enewetak community: (1) adequacy of the radiation dose monitoring of the Enewetak population; (2) increased incidence of thyroid nodules and cancers in the Enewetak population; (3) adequacy of the environmental monitoring; (4) radiological monitoring of the Cactus Crater Containment Site on Runit; and (5) transportation of fuel to Enewetak during regularly scheduled missions.

ADEQUACY OF RADIATION DOSE MONITORING. It was suggested that the Enewetak population be monitored every two years on a whole body basis. That suggested frequency of monitoring did not occur over the past six years. Monitoring of the population every two years would mean that approximately 600 whole body countings occur yearly. Unfortunately, the number of whole body countings of the Enewetak population over the past six years was slightly more than 1,000 when it probably should have been 3600. We understand that 439 people were whole body counted last year and that you will do at least half the population this year. In order to count the entire population, you will provide us with the names of those counted last year and we will encourage the remaining population to be counted this year.

Dr. Pettengill
March 1, 1994
Page 2

It was suggested that the monitoring be limited to those who live on Enewetak and that the Enewetakese who reside mostly on Majuro not be monitored. The Enewetak leadership has considered that suggestion and has determined that for the time being Enewetakese who reside either on Majuro and Enewetak be monitored regardless of where they mostly live. This determination was made based on a variety of factors including the frequency with which our population travels and lives on both Enewetak and Majuro. For the monitoring of the Enewetak population on Majuro, please contact Senator John and Mayor Peter on Majuro so that they can notify and encourage our population then on Majuro to participate in the monitoring.

We also understand that you can do approximately 10 urine samples for plutonium monitoring per day and expect to do approximately 100 this year.

At present we do not know whether the whole body counting or urine samples are adequate at the frequency suggested. We expect to further discuss this issue with you.

INCREASED HEALTH PROBLEMS. The Enewetak leadership feels that the Enewetak population is experiencing a greater frequency of serious health problems. These health problems, include among other things, thyroid nodules and various forms of cancer. In order to address this situation, we asked for and you agreed to provide all the results of whole body counting and urine analysis of our population since the inception of such counting and analysis. You will initially provide us with the results without names attached. We will obtain releases from our population so that the results can be matched with a particular individual. We suggest that the results be identified by number which number then can be matched with a particular individual. Please let me know when we can expect to receive the results.

You asked, and we identified those individuals who are afflicted with the above-mentioned health problems. The names of the individuals are as follows:

Mrs. Fumiko Lukas
Mrs. Ruthan Jackson
Mrs. Tokko Henry
Mr. Sam Luke
Mr. Lombwe Mark
Mrs. Mina Peter
Mrs. Karmi Job
Mr. Benji John
Mr. Jisen Gideon
Mrs. Erine Jitiam

Dr. Pettengill
March 1, 1994
Page 3

ADEQUACY OF ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING. We understand that Lawrence Livermore Laboratory will continue the environmental monitoring of Enewetak at the frequency and type of work described by Dr. Robison at the December meetings. We also understand that the results of the environmental work done to date will be made available to the Enewetak leadership. Such results should be presented in a meaningful and understandable way.

We note that LLL will do a grid survey and resuspension study of Runit island. We understand from LLL, DOE and Dr. Simon that the area surrounding the Runit dome is very contaminated. We request that the area around the dome, referred to as the berm, be surveyed on the basis of a 10 meter grid, rather than the proposed 100 meter grid for the rest of Runit. Also, we request that we be provided with the sampling design for the work on Runit.

ADEQUACY OF MONITORING THE RUNIT CONTAINMENT SITE. During the December meeting we told the participants that the Runit Containment Site is not being adequately monitored. Even the minimal and superficial monitoring conducted by Raytheon for the DNA is and was inadequate. We asked that the water from the wells surrounding the dome be analyzed, that the water in the lagoon surrounding the dome be analyzed, shellfish from areas near the containment site be analyzed, that the sediment in the lagoon floor be analyzed, and that the dome itself be examined for emission of radiation and for its integrity. We understand that some of the suggested monitoring began on February 21. We ask that you describe the type of monitoring that was initiated and what other monitoring intends to be done. In that regard, we also note that we suggested that a plan be devised in accordance with US regulations and standards for the near and long term monitoring of the dome. Lastly, we also note that you said that the monitoring of the dome was not a DOE responsibility. You said that such responsibility should be borne by the DNA. We told you and the other participants of the meeting that the Enewetak leadership does not much care which US agency assumes the responsibility for the monitoring of the dome. What the Enewetak leadership demands is that the responsibility for near and long term monitoring be continued by the US.

TRANSPORTATION OF FUEL TO ENEWETAK BY THE DOE VESSEL. The Enewetak Support Program is a congressionally funded program designed to provide food to the people of Enewetak and to rehabilitate the atolls agriculture capability. When the program was operated by a DOE contractor, fuel was regularly brought to

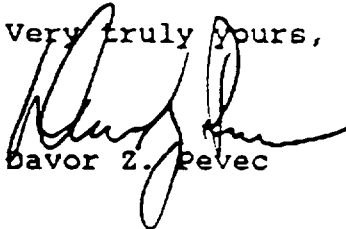
Dr. Pettengill
March 1, 1994
Page 4

Enewetak by the DOE vessel. Congress asked that the Enewetak leadership assume full control of the program which occurred in February, 1993. The DOE vessel visits Enewetak at least twice yearly for the bioassay and environmental monitoring. Since our takeover of the program, we have asked that fuel be taken to Enewetak on regularly scheduled DOE vessel visits to Enewetak. You have refused to accommodate our request on the basis that it is no longer a DOE program. We do not understand your position and do not think it makes sense that a congressionally funded program spend its limited funding for fuel transportation costs when a vessel capable of providing that fuel transportation regularly visits Enewetak. We hope that you will reevaluate your position and become the good neighbor to Enewetak that we know you aspire to demonstrate to Congress.

To conclude, we found the December meeting informative and useful and look forward to the information you will provide us and look forward to the work of Brookhaven and LLL.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Davor Z. Pevec

cc; Senator Ismael John
Mayor Neptali Peter